Meeting on problems faced by exporters

3854. SHRI C.RAMACHANDRAIAH. Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting was held at New Delhi in the second week of July, 2001 between the Minister and Chairmen of Export Councils and other exporters to discuss the problems faced by the latter in the sphere of export of Indian goods and in meeting export targets in global trade;

(b) if so, the details of the specific problems faced by exporters as enunciated at the said meeting; and suggestions made by them in this regard; and

(c) the details of the measures proposed to be taken by Government to solve problems of exporters and mitigate their grievances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A meeting was convened on 10th July, 2001 by the Commerce and Industry Minister with Chairmen of Export Promotion Councils and select exporters regarding export prospects for the current year. The participants raised various issues like export credit exchange rate, duty drawback and import of capital goods for export production and the procedural requirements. While most issues have been resolved, those having revenue implications have been referred to the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.

TRIPS Agreement

3855. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is also one of the signatories of 46 developing countries which have tabled paper appealing the Ministerial Conference to ensure that their legitimate right to formulate their own public health policies is protected and that the TRIPS accord does not undermine it;

(b) if so, whether they have been demanding that those provisions of the TRIPS Agreement which does not conform with their demands should be modified;

(c) if so, the main decisions arrived at the WTO on this issue; and

(d) whether India alongwith other countries also proposed this move ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) The WTO Council for Trade-Related Aspects for Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) held a Special Session on 20th June, 2001 to discuss the issue of affordable access to medicines in the context of the WTO Agreement on TRIPS. In the Special Session, India along with 46 other developing countries has submitted a joint paper on "TRIPS and Public Health" demanding that the WTO should ensure that the TRIPS Agreement does not undermine the right of the WTO Members to formulate their own public health policies and adopt measures for providing affordable access to medicines. Greater flexibility and clarity has been sought in the interpretation of the TRIPS Agreement so as to enable the developing countries to take care of their main public health concern of providing affordable to access to essential medicines and life saving drugs to their people.

In the Special Session, it was decided that the issue of the "TRIPS Agreement and access to medicines" would be further discussed in the next meeting of the WTO Council for TRIPS scheduled to be held in September, 2001.

Levy of anti-dumping duty on select products

3856. SHRI RAVISHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any analysis has been undertaken to ascertain the magnitude of injury caused to different domestic industries in the wake of increasing dumping of goods in our country;

(b) if so, the extent of injury evaluated in terms of sales, output, profit, market share and, other economic indication of the domestic industry under review for ascertaining such injury; and

(c) the remedial measures taken such as levy of anti-dumping duty in such cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Anti-dumping duties are imposed as a corrective measure in accordance with our National Law as enshrined in Sections 9 A, 9B and 9C of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 as amended in 1995 which are in consonance with WTO provisions to provide level playing field to the domestic industry when faced with unfair trade practices. It is riot feasible to assess and quantify the extent of injury caused and protection provided to the domestic industry. However, details of sales, market share etc. are given in the